

No. 9.

NOVEMBER 27, 1807.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

To explain the act, intituled "An act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight."



WHEREAS doubts have arisen, or may arise, touching the construction of the eighth section of the act, of which this act is explanatory; *and whereas* congress disclaim and disavow all constitutional right, title, or authority whatsoever, by any legislative act, in any wise to abridge, modify or affect the right of property of masters of slaves, not imported into the United States, contrary to law, in and to such slaves: Therefore,

1 *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the*
2 *United States of America, in congress assembled, That nothing con-*

3 tained in the eighth or any other section of the aforesaid act, shall
4 be construed to abridge, modify, or affect, in any manner whatever,
5 the full, complete and absolute right of property of the owner or
6 master of any slave, such slave not being imported contrary to law,
7 in and to such slave; and such owner or master, as aforesaid, shall
8 not be subjected to any disability, or liable to any fine, penalty or
9 forfeiture, although such master, or owner, or his or her agent, may
10 have transported any such slave, not being imported contrary to law,
11 with intent to sell the same, from one port or place within the United
12 States, to any other port or place in a vessel of less burthen than
13 forty tons.